

Bureau of Land Management, Interior

§ 3284.1

(c) BLM will:

- (1) Review the request;
 - (2) Determine whether the information provided is sufficient and whether the new or additional geologic information or interpretation provides an acceptable basis for the unit boundary change; and
 - (3) Notify the unit operator in writing of our decision.
- (d) If BLM approves the revision, the unit operator must notify all owners of lease interests or mineral rights of the unit area revision.

§ 3283.5 When will BLM periodically review unit agreements?

BLM will periodically review all unit agreements to determine compliance with § 3283.6 in accordance with the following schedule:

- (a) Not later than 5 years after the approval of each unit agreement; and
- (b) At least every 5 years following the initial unit review.

§ 3283.6 What is the purpose of BLM's periodic review?

(a) BLM must review all unit agreements to determine whether any leases, or portions of leases, committed to any unit are no longer reasonably necessary for unit operations, and eliminate from inclusion in the unit agreement any such lands it determines not reasonably necessary for unit operations.

(b) The elimination will be based on scientific evidence, and occur only for the purpose of conserving and properly managing the geothermal resources.

(c) BLM will not eliminate any lands from a unit until BLM provides the unit operator, the lessee, and any other person with a legal interest in such lands, with reasonable notice and an opportunity to comment.

(d) Any lands eliminated from a unit under this section are eligible for a lease extension under subpart 3207 of part 3200 of this chapter if the lands meet the requirements for the extension.

§ 3283.7 When may unit operators be changed?

Unit operators may be changed only with BLM's written approval.

§ 3283.8 What must be filed with BLM to change the unit operator?

To change the unit operator, the new operator must:

- (a) Meet the qualification requirements of § 3281.11;
- (b) Submit to BLM evidence of acceptable bonding under § 3214.13 of this chapter; and
- (c) File with BLM written acceptance of the unit terms and obligations.

§ 3283.9 When is a change of unit operator effective?

The change is effective when BLM approves the new unit operator in writing.

§ 3283.10 If there is a change in the unit operator, when does the previous operator's liability end?

(a) The previous unit operator remains responsible for all duties and obligations of the unit agreement until BLM approves a new unit operator. The change of the unit operator does not release the previous unit operator from any liability for any obligations that accrued before the effective date of the change (see § 3215.14 of this chapter).

(b) The new unit operator is responsible for all unit duties and obligations after BLM approves the change.

§ 3283.11 Do the terms and conditions of a unit agreement modify Federal lease stipulations?

Nothing in a unit agreement modifies stipulations included in any Federal lease.

§ 3283.12 Are transferees and successors in interest of Federal geothermal leases bound by the terms and conditions of the unit agreement?

The terms and conditions of the unit agreement are binding on transferees and successors in interest to Federal geothermal leases committed to a unit agreement.

Subpart 3284—Unit Operations

§ 3284.1 What general standards apply to operations within a unit?

All unit operations must comply with: